

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 3 and 4. illustrate a split-tip screwdriver 200 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention illustrating the sleeve 230 in the retracted and extended configurations, respectively. The split-tip screwdriver 200 overcomes the limitations described above in relation to the prior art split-tip screwdriver 100. The split-tip screwdriver 200 generally includes a handle 215 having a hollow cavity or recess 228 (Fig. 6) with a tapered opening or entrance 229 (Fig. 6), a sleeve 230 having a recessable or rearward portion 227, and two elongated members 235, 240 that combine at a distal end to form a drive tip 250. The handle 215 further includes a handle grip portion 205 and a rigid portion 210. The handle grip portion 205 is designed to provide a grippable surface, and may comprise a material including but not limited to rubber. The rigid portion 210 is designed to provide a gripping surface. The rigid portion 210 comprises a material including but not limited to plastic. Alternatively, the handle grip portion 205 and the forward, rigid portion 210 may comprise the same materials.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The sleeve 230 is movable between a retracted position shown in Fig. 3 and an extended position shown in Fig. 4. Unlike the sleeve 130 shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the sleeve 230 cannot be extended beyond the extended position shown in Fig. 2. The sleeve 230 further includes forward portion 225, a circumferential ring 220, the an

extended recessable or rearward portion 227, and a retaining rim 222. The forward portion 225 extends distally away from the handle 215 toward the combined drive tip 250 of the screwdriver 200. The elongated forward portion 225 has an interior cavity which is specifically sized to compress the elongated members 235, 240 toward one another when the sleeve 230 is moved from the retracted position shown in Fig. 3 to the extended position shown in Fig. 4. The ring 220 prevents the sleeve 230 from being retracted proximally beyond a particular point within the handle 215. The recessable or rearward extension portion 227 is substantially cylindrical and maintains a constant diameter until it terminates at the retaining rim 222 (Fig. 6). The ring 220 therefore abuts the rigid portion 210 of the handle when the sleeve 230 is retracted as shown in Fig. 3. The ridge 220 and the recessable or rearward extension portion 227 are designed to provide a gripping surface so the user can extend the sleeve 230 distally away from the handle 215 as shown in Fig. 4.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph:

The split-tip screwdriver 200 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention utilizes novel techniques to overcome the limitations of the prior art split-tip screwdriver 100. The handle 215 and the sleeve 230 include retention lips or rims 212, 222 (Figs. 6 and 8). These retention rims 212, 222 prevent the sleeve 230 from being separated from the screwdriver 200. The retention rim 222 protruding radially from the hollow cavity 228 defines the tapered opening 229. Preferably, high voltage insulated tools should include retaining devices to prevent the tool components from becoming separated from each other. The retention rims 212, 222 therefore solve the problem of

the sleeve 230 being separated from the test of the tool 200. In addition, the rearward extension portion 227 is elongated, as compared to the prior art, and thus provides a constant insulating layer that covers the elongated members 235, 240. When comparing Fig. 4 with Fig. 2, it is evident that the split-tip screwdriver 200 maintains insulation over the elongated members 235, 240 even when the sleeve 230 is in the extended position. Covering elongated members 235, 240 minimizes the possibility that user may be shocked by electricity. Thus, maintaining the rearward extension portion 227 between the retention rims or ridges 212, 222 and the remainder of the sleeve 230 therefore solves the problem of any intermediate portion of the elongated members 235, 240 being exposed, which will allow the tool 200 to be used in high voltage applications.